



Critical Days of Summer



Vehicle Breakdowns and Emergency Kits



**Brought to you by:
The Naval Safety Center**





Hints to Prevent Breakdowns



- ★ Check the coolant level and inspect the radiator cap



- ★ Inspect your radiator hoses

- ★ Inspect your fan belts

- ★ Inspect your battery

- ★ Test your starting and charging system



- ★ Check your tires (the leading cause of breakdowns) for inflation and wear



AAA Breakdown Hints



- ★ When you break down...don't panic
- ★ Signal and pull completely off the road onto the shoulder, avoiding any sudden or panic maneuvers.
- ★ Turn on emergency flashers and use extreme caution when exiting from the passenger side of the car to avoid being struck by traffic
- ★ Set up reflectors, flares or other signal devices to alert passing motorists



AAA Breakdown Hints *cont'd*



- ★ If waiting for assistance and temperature permits, return to your vehicle, lock all doors, and roll up windows. Don't open doors for anyone other than uniformed officer. Roll down you window to ask anyone else to call the police, your auto club or a service station.
- ★ Surroundings and hazards may vary, use your best judgment in deciding whether to stay with the vehicle or to go for help.
- ★ A cellular phone or citizen's band (CB) radio is a good investment and can help with a breakdown or emergency.



Roadside Dangers



- ★ In a breakdown, pull off the road but be careful of soft shoulders, narrow breakdown lanes, or debris.
- ★ Because of the number of accidents on shoulders or breakdown lanes (1,912 deaths in 1998), the decision to stay in the vehicle and to stand outside and behind a guard rail or away from the vehicle warrants consideration.
- ★ Working on your vehicle on the roadside also requires a review. Depending on conditions, vehicle location, and traffic, it may be best to call for assistance, rather than do it yourself.



Breakdown Data



It's hard to find consistent and reliable data on breakdowns or deaths/injuries. However, here are some numbers to consider:



1,912 killed in 1998 in roadside accidents (NHTSA)

4,906 pedestrians killed in 1999 (NHTSA)

39 deaths, more than 16,000 ER injuries, and
43,000 total



injuries involving jacks and jack stands (CPSC –
includes

hoists and lifts).

7 million vehicle breakdowns in June, July and Aug



Breakdown Emergency Kits



- ★ Road flares with matches/warning triangle
- ★ Auto distress flag
- ★ Cell phone



- ★ Safety reflector vest
- ★ Jumper cables (power station is even better)



- ★ First-aid kit/CPR mouth piece
- ★ Flashlight and extra batteries
- ★ Fire Extinguisher
- ★ Bottle Water



Emergency Kit cont'd



- ★ Crackers or cookies/granola or energy bars.

- ★ Extra fuses

- ★ Gloves



- ★ Nonflammable tire inflator

- ★ Rags

- ★ Auto manual

- ★ Road maps



- ★ Hand cleaner/wet naps

- ★ Whistle

- ★ Spending money/change

- ★ Extra pair of walking shoes



Breakdown Tools



- ★ Screwdrivers (flat and phillips head)

- ★ Pliers

- ★ Vise grips

- ★ Adjustable wrench

- ★ Shovel

- ★ Roll of duct tape

- ★ Pocketknife/multi-tool

- ★ Tire pressure gauge

- ★ Funnel

- ★ Wire or Rope





Breakdown Fluids/Other Items



- ★ Empty gas can
- ★ Two quarts of oil
- ★ Gallon of antifreeze



- ★ Brake fluid
- ★ Automatic trasmission fluid
- ★ Ice scrapper, thermal blanket, traction aids (salt, sand, kitty litter, or tie chains) for winter drives



- ★ Jacket or raincoat and boots
- ★ Umbrella
- ★ Extra water



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